



TAKE IT PERSONALLY

WHAT STORIES DO OUR OBJECTS TELL? MAKE YOUR OWN DISPLAY!

We people surround ourselves with things. We have things in our houses, in our bags, and we wear them. They can be clothing, jewelry, belts or tools. Some things we use because they are useful. Other things we use to look good. Sometimes one object can do several things for us. A belt can hold clothing up, but can also look nice. A ring can look good on the owner, and can also show that he is married.

THINGS CAN HOLD MEMORIES

Some things get thrown away after a while. Other things we look after and keep for a long time. We care about them, they remind us of something. A hat can hold memories of a boyfriend, a necklace could tell about a beloved grandmother, a bracelet about having to flee a war. Some objects have a long history and teach us about the past and how people from different places dealt with each other then. In the Museum of Cultural History we have a lot of things people used to wear on their bodies, like clothing, hair ornaments, and weapons. Now, the researchers at the museum have found a lot of these objects and examined them. They have asked questions like:

What were the objects made from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Why were these materials and colours chosen, and not others?
Where did the ideas for the design come from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Why does the thing look exactly like it does?
What does the thing tell about the people who used it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Were they rich or poor, men or women, young or old, powerful or weak?
Why did the things become valuable to those who used them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Was it because they were rare? •Was it particularly beautiful, big, magical..?
What memories could such things carry with them?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Was it supposed to remind the owner about loved ones they had lost, or of special experiences they had had?
what is the life history of the thing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •How has the value of the thing changed over time? •What stories are there about the thing?

NOW YOU ARE THE RESEARCHER!

We would like to know more about how people relate to things, and we are asking you for help with this. Talk about how things could be important and what meanings they have for different people with your teacher and class.

Then we have the following challenge for you:

1. **Choose a thing** – a thing you have or that someone in your family carries with them and love.
2. **Examine the thing** using your curiosity and the questions from the researchers.
3. **Discuss in class.** Listen to others and share your thoughts.

4. **Write a short text about the thing (75-100 words)** ➔

5. **Take a nice photograph of the thing for the exhibit.**

6. **Give the text and the photo to the teacher.**

Choose if you want to use your name or just write girl/ boy and how old you are.

7. **Make an exhibit with the photographs and the texts.**

It could either be at school or at the heritage centre.

What the text could be about:

- what does the thing look like
- history of the thing
- what memories does the thing speak to
- what does the thing tell about its owner
- how and why the thing is valued
- what is the future of the thing?

The first time we did this at Qiqirtaq Ilihakvik it was for an exhibit called "Take it personally" at the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, Norway. You can look at the web pages for the exhibit if you want to know more about it, and at the film the students from Gjoa Haven made with their object stories that were showed in the exhibit here:

<http://www.khm.uio.no/english/visit-us/historical-museum/temporary-exhibitions/2015/this-is-personal.html>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bIXPD9D4Qs>

